## BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

## OF THE





ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE SARAH THOMAS, presiding

Order Instituting Rulemaking to

Implement Electric Utility Wildfire
Mitigation Plans Pursuant to Senate
Bill 901 (2018).

) PREHEARING
) CONFERENCE
)
Rulemaking
) 18-10-007

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Reported by: Andrea Ross, CSR No. 7896

1 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 2 AUGUST 28, 2019 - 10:00 A.M. 3 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE THOMAS: We'll 4 5 be on the record. This is the prehearing conference for Phase 2 of the Wildfire 6 Mitigation Plan proceeding, Docket Number 7 I am one of the two assigned 8 R.18-10-007. 9 administrative law judges to the proceeding, The other administrative law 10 Sarah Thomas. 11 judge, Peter Allen, is not here this week. 12 The assigned Commissioner is our new 13 president, President Marybel Batjer. 14 couldn't be here this morning but I have a 15 little statement to read from her: 16 Thank you all for your 17 participation and dedication to 18 this important proceeding. 19 Wildfire prevention and mitigation 20 is a top priority. Phase 1 of 21 this proceeding was resolved 22 timely due to the oncoming fire season and could not address all 23 24 relevant issues. 25 In Phase 2 we will address issues we could not address in Phase 1. 26 27 We must remain steadfast in our 28 commitment to drive down the risk

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of catastrophic wildfires and 1 2 Protect Our Communities. I look 3 forward to working with all of the 4 parties and ALJ Thomas. 5 The prehearing conference is mostly 6 going to be dedicated to housekeeping 7 A lot of the substantive issues matters. that the parties have raised, very helpful 8 9 comments that were filed both by the utilities initially and then by the other 10 11 parties and the utilities on the 21st, those 12 issues will by and large be discussed and 13 addressed in the workshops that are scheduled for September 17th, 18th, and 19th. 14 15 They already appear on the daily 16 calendar and we've been talking internally 17 about a schedule. So I'll be talking about 18 that in a moment and kind of sketch out for 19 you what we think is an appropriate schedule, 20 but I'd like to hear from you if you think, 21 you know, we're missing something or 22 something else needs to be said about the 23 schedule. 24 The interesting sort of elephant in 25 the room is that after the decisions on 26 May 30th were approved in Phase 1 approving

incidentally if anybody wants summaries of

the wildfire mitigation plans -- and

the decisions that approved the plans, on our home page there is a fact sheet that summarizes the decisions, the guidance decision, and each of the individual decisions, and also a description of what this Phase 2 will consist of.

So we'll continue to keep that up to date but it's a short summary of what the decisions in the past decided and the issues that were left open for further consideration in Phase 2. The point is that we have a lot of issues that were of concern in Phase 1 such as metrics and I think OSA gave us a little table, which I appreciate your doing, that summarized what the utilities' proposed metrics are and compared and contrasted the language of them.

I have some homework for you and I'm going to ask for a volunteer to do this, but if I don't get a volunteer, I'll pick somebody. I'd like something like that table or maybe something added to that table that summarizes all of the other parties' proposed metrics.

And to the extent that you're saying the same thing in slightly different ways, you know, it might be helpful to try to talk through whether in fact you are really

1 asking for the same thing. I just want to 2 make sure that, before we start planning for 3 the workshops, we have a list of everybody's proposed metrics. You don't have to agree on 4 5 It's just a list of all proposed 6 metrics. And I'm going to ask for that by Friday of next week, filed and served. 7 Do I have a volunteer? All right. 8 9 I am -- 3, 2, 1 -- Ms. Hook from Public Advocates Office. 10 11 MS. HOOK: We can help with that. 12 ALJ THOMAS: All right. And have a 13 look at what OSA did and perhaps you can 14 build on that chart, but it's entirely up to 15 you how it looks. I just want a list of all 16 the metrics that these parties are proposing 17 so that we have a sense of that and can plan 18 for the workshops accordingly. 19 MS. HOOK: Great. 20 ALJ THOMAS: One of the issues for 21 Phase 2 is the issue of language access and 22 in-language communication to communities 23 about wildfire. We have a couple of other 24 proceedings that are looking at the same 25 issue, obviously the de-energization 26 proceeding that Judge Semcer has and there's 27 also an emergency preparedness proceeding

that Judge Rizzo has.

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1 And so I suspect that what we do in 2 this proceeding will also be the result in 3 those proceedings. So we're going to have a panel on language access. 4 5 Is Monica Palmeira here? Why don't 6 you stand up, Monica. Monica has graciously agreed to moderate the panel on in-language 7 We're thinking it will be on the 8 9 September 19th afternoon slot, but that's 10 tentative. 11 I'd request that if you're 12 especially interested in either being on a 13 panel or bringing experts or making 14 presentations in on in-language issues, 15 please either talk to Monica today and, 16 Monica, maybe you'll stay around a little bit 17 afterward, or e-mail her. Her e-mail is 18 Monica.Palmeira@cpuc.ca.gov, and that's 19 P-a-l-m-e-i-r-a. 20 We don't have facilitators nailed 21 down for the rest of the workshops but we 22 have that one. And because we may need 23 outside parties to address the issue of 24 additional language access for wildfire 25 mitigation, we'd like to get that started, 26 that conversation started, with Monica well

I was starting to say that the

in advance of the workshop.

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1 elephant in the room was that after the 2 decisions were made on May 30th, a statute was passed, AB 1054, I suspect you're all 3 familiar with it, along with another statute, 4 5 AB 111. Those statutes change the process of how we evaluate and how the utilities -- the 6 timeline on which the utilities file their 7 Wildfire Mitigation Plans. 8 9 So while these first plans came before the ALJ division in a formal 10 11 proceeding, the next plans will be submitted 12 to the Wildfire Safety Division, the 13 newly-created or to-be-created Wildfire 14 Safety Division. The Wildfire Safety 15 Division will evaluate and act on those 16 plans. 17 And for the benefit of those of you 18 that were overwhelmed by the idea of doing 19 this every year, they are three-year plans, 20 at least three-year plans. Nonetheless, I 21 think the statute still contains -- and I 22 didn't have a chance to find it this morning, 23 I was furiously trying to find it -- but I 24 believe the statute still contains the 90-day

So the statute does not solve the time-crunch problem, but it at least makes it

limitation, deadline, on actually approving

or acting upon the plan.

a time-crunch problem that we have every 1 2 three years rather than every year. We'll 3 see how all of the other aspects of AB 1054 turn out. There's a whole wildfire advisory 4 5 board that has to be constituted by 6 January 1, 2020, that will have input into the Wildfire Safety Division's evaluation of 7 the new plans. 8 9 The Wildfire Safety Division, at 10 least as the current legislation stands, is 11 to be spun off into a new state agency in 12 July of 2021. So there are a lot of new 13 things that have come about since we did our 14 first set of decisions. One of the issues 15 that will be addressed at the workshop will 16 be this sort of issue of transitioning from a 17 formal proceeding before an ALJ to the Wildfire Safety Division evaluation. There 18 19 will be some conversation about that. 20 I've talked way too much. Are there 21 any questions or comments about what I've 22 said thus far? 23 (No response.) 24 ALJ THOMAS: Yes, and identify yourself 25 for the record, please. 26 MS. PANG: Hi, this is Jaime from the 27 Protect Our Communities Foundation. I was 28 just wondering if you could confirm whether

the workshops would be available via Webex or 1 2 a call-in service? ALJ THOMAS: Yes, they will be 3 available via Webex. 4 5 Yes? 6 MR. ABRAMS: Will Abrams, just a 7 clarifying question about AB 1054. From that legislation, it looks as if the determination 8 9 of when the full Wildfire Mitigation Plans 10 will be developed and when the interim in 11 between the three-year cycle takes place. 12 So is there a determination that this current proceeding will establish that 13 14 baseline and then three years from now we'll 15 have the next full Wildfire Mitigation Plan. What I'll do is outline in 16 ALJ THOMAS: 17 the scoping memo that I issue shortly after 18 this prehearing conference a discussion of 19 that issue so that everybody has -- I need to 20 confer with the assigned office and with 21 the -- what's currently the Safety and 22 Enforcement Division about timing just to 23 make sure that we're all on the same page. 24 But I will address it in the scoping memo if 25 that satisfies. MR. ABRAMS: 26 Yes, thank you. I would 27 be concerned if the last Wildfire Mitigation

Plans, because of how you stated that they

were on an expedited timeline, became that baseline. So I just, you know, I think it's really, really important that we take the time to get a solid baseline before we sort of move off that mark and start doing the iterative process.

ALJ THOMAS: Understood. And a number of you made that point in your comments. I've read them all. They were really very helpful. I took note of that particular comment as well.

You know, obviously the bottom line, the goal, is not just doing this for planning sake but to do things that actually reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. I think we all sort of are living in fear of the next wildfire season. We need to, as a state, get very coordinated around how we deal with this crisis that faces us.

Sir.

MR. MITCHELL: Joseph Mitchell, Mussey
Grade Road Alliance. One of the questions we
had with regard to AB 1054 was what
mechanisms are going to be remaining for
public input after, first, the transition
into the Wildfire Safety Division, and then
after that Wildfire Safety Division ends up
in the utility safety organization that's

going to be spun off as a separate state agency? Currently there is a well-defined process for intervenor input. That's not very clear to us as we move forward.

ALJ THOMAS: Yeah, and we'll talk about that issue at the workshop. I don't know that we'll be able to answer every question about it, but at least we want to take parties' input on that issue and get a road map at least started so that people have some understanding of what the process will be going forward.

But I don't have the answers now and I may not have the answers at the workshop, but at least we can talk about it. And we will have a panel that addresses that issue and I'll get to that in a second.

MR. MITCHELL: Is there a mechanism by which the Commission can request clarification from the legislature or the governor on this type of issue?

ALJ THOMAS: Well, generally when I look at a statute, I sort of look at what the legislative history is. This statute doesn't say a lot about that issue. I mean in fact if you look at the statute really, it simply changes, you know, submit to the Commission changes the word of the Commission to

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Wildfire Safety Division. It's an entirely 1 2 new process, so I don't honestly know if we, 3 you know, if it would be fruitful to ask the legislature what they meant, but sometimes 4 5 what I like to do generally is look at the 6 legislative history first to see if there's 7 any quidance there but you make a good 8 suggestion. 9 MR. MITCHELL: Thank you. 10 ALJ THOMAS: Any other questions before 11 I get to talking about the workshops and the 12 agenda for the workshops? 13 (No response.) 14 ALJ THOMAS: So we have three days, 15 17th, 18th, and 19th of September. They will 16 be in the auditorium here. They will be 17 Webexed and we'll do everything we can to 18 make them accessible to people that are not 19 in San Francisco or not able to be in the 20 room. 21 So what we wanted to have as one of 22 the issues that wasn't explicitly listed in 23

So what we wanted to have as one of the issues that wasn't explicitly listed in the kick-off ruling for this Phase 2 is updates from the IOUs on what they've done thus far pursuant to their approved plans, accepted plans, however you want to characterize what those decisions did, and what's working, what's not working, concerns

that have arisen.

And a concern could be everything from we're not getting things done in time because of X, Y, and Z, land-owner access issues, lack of available personnel, whatever the issue is, and also things that seem to be working well. So we'll probably give more detail when we circulate a detailed agenda about what those should consist of.

But it's also the parties' opportunity to ask questions and perhaps weigh in with opinions on, you know, what they hear.

Yes, Mr. Archer.

MR. ARCHER: Good morning, your Honor. Quick follow-up question on that. Do you anticipate the IOUs submitting a written report about that progress and status or would that be an oral discussion at the workshop?

ALJ THOMAS: Well, I'd be interested in parties' views on that, but it could be that you submit something in advance of the workshop and then work from it at the workshop. So it could be in the form of a PowerPoint or some other document. So actually it occurs to me that that may be helpful because it will be a lot of material

and parties will need time to formulate questions. So why don't we have -- and I'm thinking that this will be on the 17th. So why don't we have you do that a week before the date, the 10th, filed and served.

I will ask you to be candid about problems and delays and if parties have specific questions that you think would be appropriate for the utilities to address in these filings, perhaps when we -- before I issue the scoping memo if you want to file something, you may do that.

Why don't I just have a date for filing of any sort of additional remarks as a result of this prehearing conference that you want to, you know, make sure we're aware of before the workshops. We'll have a date of a week from today. Why don't we do the Friday because that's when the list of metrics is due. It will just be follow-up issues from prehearing conference. You don't have to file anything.

But if you walked away today
thinking there was something I didn't say
that I think needs to be addressed at the
workshops or something that wasn't clear to
me, let's do that because we will be doing so
much in workshops and we won't really see

each other between now and then.

Mr. Abrams.

MR. ABRAMS: Thank you. In preparation for the workshops, I'm concerned that we don't have the right data even with the table to go into that discussion so the metrics that have been provided by the utilities are insufficient in my estimation for coming up with a methodology for evaluating performance metrics.

So I think if we could have a template where we can gather that information, everything from failure rate of switches and components to relative risk reduction associated with their different tactics, that's the type of information that I think we need in order to have fruitful conversations in the workshops.

ALJ THOMAS: Let me talk through the workshop a little bit, what we're thinking, and then let me know if you still have that concern. I'm just going by sort of the tentative schedule that I'm looking at. And this has obviously not been circulated so it's subject to change.

So the IOUs would present in the morning of the 17th, the smalls, Liberty, Bear Valley, PacifiCorp would present briefly

in the afternoon, and then we'd have discussion of the impact of the new legislation in the afternoon. And we have some consultants that will probably be involved in that presentation along with Liza Malashenko, the head of the Safety and Enforcement Division and other representatives of that division. 

Day 2 is all metrics. So we were thinking that we would have at least one expert panel where we talked through appropriate metrics and talk about devising the kind of template that you're talking about, Mr. Abrams, but there may well be -- so what we were thinking was a panel where the parties present the metrics that they are proponents of, a panel where experts who have seen the parties' comments and evaluated the metrics they propose, independent experts, and maybe parties' own experts, if they want to bring them, talk about sort of their views of what appropriate metrics look like.

That would probably be a whole day discussion. We have to flesh this out a little bit more. We have some time, but Day 2 would be all about metrics. And then let me just get through the end of this just so folks know. The third day would talk

about evaluation of the plans that we 1 2 currently have, independent evaluation, 3 enforcement to the extent that parties are concerned about deadline slipping or other 4 5 changes in plans that are happening as we're 6 live with their implementation. 7 And then we'd have PG&E present its 8 second-amended plan that day. And, again, 9 the days can be moved around. There's 10 nothing carved in stone here. But PG&E can 11 present its second-amended plan and take 12 questions. 13 And then the final would be the 14 language access panel moderated by Monica 15 For the most part, SED would Palmeira. 16 moderate the whole workshop along with its 17 Obviously as soon as we have contractor. 18 this all committed to writing in more detail, 19 we'll get it out to the parties. But I want 20 to ask if anybody has questions or comments 21 or concerns about what I've said so far. 22 Ms. Hook. 23 MS. HOOK: Just a clarification. Would 24 the role of the independent evaluator be part of Day 3 role, team? 25 26 **ALJ THOMAS:** Yes. 27 MS. HOOK: Thank you.

And the statute contains

ALJ THOMAS:

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the independent evaluator -- continues to
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     contain independent evaluator language so we
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     need to -- it requires that we designate a
     list of potential independent evaluators.
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     There's just a whole series of steps that
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     will need to be taken and we want to get
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     that, at least have a discussion with parties
 8
     about that process.
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               Yes.
           MS. COTTLE: Lisa Cottle. I'm here
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     today for Horizon West Transmission and also
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     Trans Bay Cable.
                       I heard you mention that
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     the small IOUs would present in the afternoon
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     on the first day. Do you also want to hear
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     from the independent transmission owners
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     or -- we plan to have our representatives
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     present at the workshop, but just wanted to
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     know if you also wanted to hear from them as
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     part of the panel.
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           ALJ THOMAS:
                        I'm thinking no.
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           MS. COTTLE:
                        Okay.
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                                I'm thinking no,
           ALJ THOMAS:
                        Yeah.
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     but the scoping memo will perhaps ask you to
24
     submit something in writing.
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           MS. COTTLE:
                        Okay, thank you.
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           ALJ THOMAS:
                        Other questions?
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               Yes.
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           MS. BEHLES: Deborah Behles with the
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California Environmental Justice Alliance. 1 2 Would the language-access panel discuss 3 outreach methods as well as languages? ALJ THOMAS: Yes. There are a couple 4 5 things that have come up since the decisions 6 were voted out in May. One is this whole issue around people that don't even have a 7 written language or use glyphs or other types 8 9 of ways of communicating and how do we get the word out to them. 10 11 And I'm mostly talking about when 12 there's a wildfire situation as opposed to 13 when there's a de-energization because 14 de-energization is its own proceeding for the 15 most part and they really are focused on 16 communication and then we've had some input 17 from the IOUs, especially the small IOUs, 18 multi-jurisdictional IOUs, about whether the 19 languages that we adopted are too many. 20 I mean we've basically followed the 21 statute except that we added Korean and 22 Russian where prevalent because they are 23 quite prevalent in the Bay Area, Russian, and 24 in LA, Korean. So that was more 25 discretionary on the Commission's part. 26 So it may be that it is relevant or 27 not relevant for the smalls and the

multi-jurisdictionals, but what about other

languages? What about other people? What about indigenous languages? You know, the state is extremely diverse and I deeply care about this language-access issue myself. So I think, you know, I'd like the panel to be as comprehensive as possible. That's why I want to kind of get people talking to Monica now on that. Okay.

Any other questions?
Mr. Abrams.

MR. ABRAMS: So I'm concerned given the outline that you mentioned regarding the workshops that we won't have enough time to really go over the data. And I think gathering the data ahead of time makes sense because if we spend the workshop identifying which data points we need, I don't think we're going to have enough time to digest it. It would be great to have that data beforehand.

And I'm concerned, given my prior motion for an evidentiary hearing and my data requests and my subsequent motions to compel, have not been able to get the data that I feel I need to be able to provide input. I have held off in terms of filing an additional motion for an evidentiary hearing. I know that's something to be avoided in this

proceeding, but I have not seen that data forthcoming around how these metrics came together and what precipitated the things in the second amendment for PG&E. Without that information, I think it's very hard for parties to be able to understand what are the right performance-based metrics moving forward.

ALJ THOMAS: All right. Well, without more detail, I can't really answer the questions here and the previous motions were sort of mooted by the fact that the decision didn't pass on the second-amended plan as you know because it was filed three days before we mailed the decisions and it was not possible to determine it within the time we were allotted.

But if you have motions that you feel need to be either refiled or filed, please go ahead and make them and that's true for everybody here. Hearings, motion for -- the motions to compel discovery, you know, to the extent that you have discovery that you think you still need and you haven't done it yet, please do it.

The same procedures will apply here as will apply in the last phase except that we've given a little more time. It may be

between now and the workshops we need to truncate the dates a little bit in terms of 10 days versus three days. Maybe we'll go to five days between now and the workshops.

We'll go to five days between now and the workshops. That will show up in the scoping memo. But, yeah, if there are additional discovery matters that you think need to be addressed or if you want to make a motion for a hearing based on the outline that I gave in the last phase, and I'll reiterate it in the scoping memo, I can't guarantee that we'll grant it but you should definitely file one if you think it's warranted.

Yes?

MR. ABRAMS: Can I do that verbally now or would I have to do that in writing? Could I outline those things now in terms of motion for an evidentiary hearing?

ALJ THOMAS: No. I prefer that you did it in writing because I want to understand the -- you talk about data and getting discovery and metrics and I just need to understand better what you think the data combined with the metrics will show that is relevant to the Commission's determination under the old statute and the new statute to

the extent -- once we get into the new statute so I need more from you on that.

And I know you've furnished a lot of material and I really am very grateful to you for that, but I think I need to understand a little bit more about the data, what that is, what the data are that you're talking about and how they link up with these metrics.

MR. ABRAMS: Thank you.

ALJ THOMAS: Yes.

MR. ALCANTAR: Your Honor, Michael Alcantar on behalf of the Western States Petroleum Association, just in aid of perhaps your information given the last question would be useful. There may well be some tensions between a large industrial customer and a residential customer, as you can well imagine.

But for the industrial customers, there is also a sense of a lack of data in this same vein. What are the main arteries of delivery in their transmission lines, what are they doing to distribution systems along those lines, critically important. If we are going to prioritize looking at the most important lines first, the question states the problem, what is most important, what are we trying to preserve, what are the issues --

some of the metrics that you've already identified.

So if in aid and in support of what I think is being asked, I hope you will take seriously the concerns from the wide spectrum of customers, one end to the other in terms of size and concern with the type of changes that are being considered to look at that carefully in the metrics.

The point I'm trying to make is priority is on what we're going to do first or what the utilities think they should do first are critical, absolutely, fundamentally critical. If, as an example, I can suggest to you that a refinery sitting on the end of a transmission line is going to be the last line taken care of, they're going to have some real serious concerns with that.

And I would think certainly a residential customer in a wildfire zone, which I happen to be one of those, would perhaps just as seriously be concerned about what's happening with my local distribution line being put down prior to the line. But I think you're going to have to wrestle with the idea of what is the most important significant benefit for the State in terms of what we're trying to preserve and protect.

1	ALJ THOMAS: Is Western States
2	Petroleum Association a party to the
3	proceeding?
4	MR. ALCANTAR: I'm here because we are,
5	yes. We are on the service list.
6	ALJ THOMAS: Okay. Did you file
7	comments?
8	MR. ALCANTAR: We did not.
9	ALJ THOMAS: All right, because this is
10	the first time I'm hearing this.
11	MR. ALCANTAR: Yeah, I think we're
12	trying in a first-time way to become engaged
13	in a way that is constructive in this arena.
14	ALJ THOMAS: To the extent that metrics
15	are in the scope of Phase 2 and metrics
16	involve prioritizing what work gets done
17	first, I guess it's arguably within scope but
18	that's not really anything that we talked
19	about in the decision, approving the plans,
20	because the plans didn't do it. So I need to
21	kind of muddle over that.
22	MR. ALCANTAR: Understood, and it was
23	seen as the shortcomings in the plans,
24	frankly, this particular point, so I
25	appreciate it.
26	ALJ THOMAS: Sure.
27	Other questions or comments about
28	the workshops?

1 (No response.) 2 Okay. I mean I was ALJ THOMAS: 3 completely clear or you're completely mystified or you're waiting for the next 4 5 thing that we issue that makes it clear. 6 Either one is fine. 7 Yeah, Mr. Abrams. You should be up 8 here. 9 MR. ABRAMS: Sorry. Just I guess two 10 more questions or points. 11 ALJ THOMAS: Sure. 12 MR. ABRAMS: One is related to the data 13 discussion which is around transparency so 14 I'm not sure the right motions to put forward 15 after the motions to compel, but if the data 16 is not forthcoming on items where obviously 17 there is data, so as an example, if I'm just 18 asking for provide the data that, you know, 19 that PG&E had around not inspecting lines 20 before re-energization or what went into the 21 determination that results should be stricken 22 from their inspection of their vegetation 23 management practices, things like that and 24 then it comes back as no communications 25 occurred, we don't have any data on that, I 26 just don't know what my next step is to move 27 that forward. 28 So just the transparency issue is a

question. And my second question is just around these independent evaluators that were identified and whether they will be part of the process through the workshop. Part of what I'm hoping is that those independent evaluators have some skills and experience around the data and around risk mitigation and quality assurance and have that subject matter expertise, in addition to the sort of first responder expertise that was mentioned in the scope.

ALJ THOMAS: On the first question -you know, I was a litigator for years. I
mean when somebody says to you under oath
that they don't have any documents and you
think it can't possibly be true, you either
have to figure out what was wrong with the
question you asked and ask a better question
because, you know, the question is
everything; right?

Or sometimes there just aren't documents or there aren't documents that still are around. So if someone says under oath or subject to Rule 1 or under some certified, sworn-to response, we don't have any documents, you can't really file a motion to compel because they're just going to say the same thing in response. But I always

think in discovery and it's a skill that takes years to develop frankly, it's about asking the right questions.

I used to like depositions better because I could kind of catch people in, you know, without them having their attorneys responding, but we don't do depositions much here. Anyway, that's my observation on that.

In terms of the independent evaluators, the workshop will really just tee-up the issue. We need, as a Commission, to come up with a list of -- this is just what the statute says. We need to come up with a list of independent evaluators for the task of evaluating this first set of plans. We need to kick off that process.

So, no, independent evaluators won't be at the workshop, but I completely agree with you that they have to be people that are skilled in data and metrics and know about wildfire and know about utility infrastructure.

If any of you have kids that are trying to figure out what to do when they grow up, they should probably go into this field because there's going to be more and more need for it. I sometimes wonder, you know, every consultant in the state has

probably got work until the end of time or 1 2 international consultants, out of state 3 consultants, so it is a constrained field. Yes? 4 5 MS. BEHLES: Deborah Behles of CEJA. 6 After the workshop, do you anticipate parties 7 will be able to do comments? I mean in case 8 their prior recommendations are informed by 9 what we hear at the workshops. 10 ALJ THOMAS: Yes. I was going to get 11 to schedule but I just wanted to get through 12 your questions. 13 Are there any other questions about 14 the workshops? 15 Yes, sir. MR. ROSTOV: William Rostov on behalf 16 17 of the City and County of San Francisco. Ι 18 just wanted to follow-up on what WSPA said. 19 It seems to me that PG&E in their 20 second-amended wildfire plan really raised 21 the issue of de-energization for major cities 22 and potentially for refineries as well. 23 So it probably isn't in scope now in 24 a way that wasn't when we first saw the So I think really thinking about 25 plans. 26 priorities about how de-energization is going 27 to occur, even though there --

Excuse me, sir, I'm

THE REPORTER:

So

having a hard time understanding you. 1 2 ALJ THOMAS: Why don't you step up and 3 maybe folks can let him have a microphone. MR. ROSTOV: William Rostov on behalf 4 5 of the City and County of San Francisco. What I'm saying is PG&E in their 6 7 second-amended wildfire plans that was not approved really raised the issue of -- I'm 8 9 following up on what WSPA said -- really 10 raised the issue of de-energization for major 11 cities and potentially other major 12 facilities. 13 So I think it is very important and 14 is in scope to decide how the wildfire plans 15 are going to address major industrial 16 facilities as well as major cities when 17 you're coming to making decisions about your 18 wildfire plans and who you're going to effect. So it was just following up on what 19 20 you said earlier. 21 ALJ THOMAS: Okay, thank you. And one 22 of the reasons we kind of spun off 23 de-energization from this proceeding, even 24 though it's on the list of things that are in 25 the plans, is that there were so many 26 municipalities and others that wanted to 27 really do a deep dive on de-energization that

it was going to swallow this proceeding.

1 Judge Semcer, I know, has got a Phase 2 as 2 well. WSPA and City and County, are you 3 active in that proceeding? 4 MR. ROSTOV: Yes, we are. I just 5 wanted to point out that there is an overlap 6 and we agree that de-energization is another 7 good place to look at it. If there's 8 ALJ THOMAS: Yeah. 9 something that you think isn't being addressed there that needs to be addressed 10 11 here, then maybe in comments after the 12 workshops, you let me know. But I'm sort of 13 trusting Judge Semcer to cover the whole 14 water front of issues that come up with 15 regard to de-energization, including this 16 priority idea. I mean I wouldn't be 17 surprised if there were legislation on this 18 issue but I don't have a crystal ball. 19 So can we talk about schedule? 20 everybody kind of -- remember I said to you 21 next Friday if there were things -- if you 22 come out here and you say I should have said 23 something about what should be in the 24 workshops or I wasn't clear on something, you 25 may, but are not obligated to -- and really I 26 will not count it against you if you don't 27 file -- but you may file just a follow-up

from prehearing conference as ordered by

Judge Thomas, as allowed by Judge Thomas. 1 2 It's not ordered. You don't have to do it. 3 Okav. Let's talk about schedule really quickly. So scoping memo we're going 4 5 to try to get it out in the next couple of 6 weeks depending on President Batjer's 7 availability. The workshops, as you know, are on September 17th, 18th, and 19th and 8 9 you'll start to get lots of materials about 10 them from our facilitators, from SED, the 11 Safety and Enforcement Division, on just 12 logistics, panels, people, you know, if you 13 want to nominate experts, for example, to 14 talk about metrics. 15 Obviously the parties will also have 16 the opportunity to present on their metrics. 17 We'll use the list that Ms. Hook puts 18 together as sort of a summary of what parties 19 have proposed thus far, but you can always 20 bring up other things at the workshops. 21 that will happen. We'll then have a series 22 of comments and I was thinking of ruling sort 23 of -- outlining what the comments should 24 focus on on October 9th and comments due 25 October 30th with reply comments on November 13th. 26 27 But I need to work that through with 28 the assigned Commissioner. That's sort of

what I was thinking. And then there would be 1 2 some sort of a Phase 2 decision. And the 3 decision would also prescribe when the utilities file their next plans and address 4 5 process because obviously the process is 6 going to change going forward because of the 7 new statute. Are there other items of scheduling 8 9 that people think need to be considered? 10 Yes. 11 Joseph Mitchell, just MR. MITCHELL: 12 clarification regarding AB 1054 and its scheduling requirement. Am I understanding 13 14 correctly that the next plans need to be 15 issued by the end of this calendar year? 16 ALJ THOMAS: The next plans need to be 17 issued --18 MR. MITCHELL: For the next Wildfire Mitigation Plans. 19 20 I was not assuming that, ALJ THOMAS: 21 Let's maybe have the utilities speak to 22 I mean you utilities had proposed submitting them on a schedule sort of like 23 24 the schedule we had this year. We were 25 thinking actually of bumping up the submission date a little bit, but I have not 26 27 really had the opportunity to talk that 28 through, as I said earlier, with the Safety

1 Enforcement Division or the assigned 2 Commissioner, and I want us to all get on the 3 same page about that timing. So I was thinking a decision would address the timing. 4 5 MR. MITCHELL: If I remember right, I 6 think SDG&E had made some comments about having the plans finalized by end of March or 7 reviewed; is that correct? No? 8 I don't recall that. 9 MR. MELVILLE: 10 MR. MITCHELL: I'm sorry. 11 ALJ THOMAS: And, Mr. Melville, use the 12 mic if you would. That was Mr. Keith 13 Melville of SDG&E who spoke just a moment 14 ago. 15 MR. MELVILLE: Keith Melville, San 16 Diego Gas & Electric. Just going by what's 17 in the statute, it's not entirely clear how 18 long the Commission has to act on these 19 things so the WSB has to be established by 20 January 1, 2020, and then they get a 90-day 21 window. 22 If they were to start on the day 23 they were established, that's where you get a 24 March date. But that's not to say that that's what will happen. 25 It's our 26 understanding the current plans stay in 27 effect until the next plan is adopted. 28 Right. So I think we need ALJ THOMAS:

```
to have -- as I said, we're going to have a
 1
 2
     little discussion about that the first day of
 3
     the workshops. And I assume that there will
     be some quidance on that in the decision that
 4
 5
     comes out of Phase 2 as well in terms of
 6
     dates and things.
               But we really need to confer with
 7
     the folks that are actually going to be doing
 8
 9
     the work next time because it won't be me
10
     unless I move to the Safety and Enforcement
     Division or the Wildfire Safety Division or
11
12
     something.
13
               Yes?
14
           MS. BERLIN:
                        Hi.
                             Susie Berlin, NCPA.
15
                        Would you come forward.
           ALJ THOMAS:
16
     And anybody else who thinks they are going to
17
     speak, come forward.
18
           MS. BERLIN: Susie Berlin, B-e-r-l-i-n,
     for the Northern California Power Agency.
19
     was wondering if you anticipate any kind of
20
21
     post workshop report that would be part of
22
     the comment process or on any of the three
23
     days of workshop topics?
24
           ALJ THOMAS:
                        I don't know yet.
25
           MS. BERLIN:
                        Okav.
                        It's a possibility, but I
26
           ALJ THOMAS:
27
     don't know yet.
28
           MS. BERLIN: All right, thank you.
```

ALJ THOMAS: Mr. Abrams.

MR. ABRAMS: So one of the other areas of concern I have is around public understanding of the data that comes out of the Wildfire Mitigation Plans. I would recommend that there will be public hearings around the data so that we understand that this is the type of information that a resident in California can use to make decisions for their family.

I think that is hugely important to understand if this is the right data is by gauging the public's perception of that data and does it give them the right information to make family decisions, community decisions, do-we-rebuild-our-homes decisions, all of those critical decisions. Without it being in front of the public, I think we run risks.

ALJ THOMAS: So I need to understand better sort of precisely what examples of what you're talking about, and I'm not asking you to do it here. As I said, if you want to make a motion for hearing, please do it in writing. But I completely agree with you, and I've said this to the team that's going to be working on the metrics part of the workshop, that we need to talk about metrics

in plain English because if it's either consultant speak or engineer speak, if I don't understand what the metric is, then garbage in, garbage out. We're not going to get actually what we want.

So I completely agree that information needs to be presented in an accessible way that the public actually understands. But to the extent you're asking about actionable data, I really need to understand more in a motion what you're talking about, specifics, you know, spell it out for me.

And it may seem obvious to you because you've been in this for longer than I have, but it would be very helpful to me and I suspect to the assigned Commissioner to have it spelled out with examples of what you're talking about.

And I don't want to create work for you. It's just that if I don't understand what you're asking, I can't take action.

MR. ABRAMS: Yeah, I'd be happy to provide examples of that here. Part of it is exactly that, that time crunch. And, you know, obviously I'm passionate about this and want to provide as much useful information as I can. But going back and forth with the

utilities, I'm one -- I'm the only individual that I know of who is a party to the proceedings and so it's just me. I don't have a team.

And so being able to go back and forth and back and forth with motions and the like, is -- and I'm not an attorney -- is something that, you know, I'm not looking for, you know, poor me. But I just want to try to make sure that it's being presented in the right way. I'm happy to work with any parties to make sure that's presented.

ALJ THOMAS: All right. Hold that thought.

Ms. Hook.

MS. HOOK: Oh, I just have a related suggestion. It's kind of a clarification question too. But could we talk about data collection and sharing with the third parties. I was assuming that would be part of metrics day, but I thought I'd ask.

ALJ THOMAS: Yes. To the extent that there's critical infrastructure data that has security implications, there may be limits on disseminating every item of data. But I suspect that's not what you're talking about.

Mr. Archer has had his hand up so let's hear from him.

1 MR. ARCHER: Your Honor, we'd just 2 respectfully request that you direct 3 Mr. Abrams in his forthcoming motion or motions to be more precise about what he 4 5 means by the utilities because I'm not sure 6 what that reference was to other than PG&E, 7 as well as what the phrase public hearings means because that could either mean an 8 9 evidentiary hearing where the public can 10 watch or a public participation hearing. 11 Those are very different things. 12 ALJ THOMAS: I assumed, Mr. Abrams, 13 that you meant evidentiary hearings. 14 MR. ABRAMS: So really I meant both. 15 So I meant evidentiary hearings for the purposes of, I guess, the parties in the room 16 17 to really get underneath the data and what's 18 being provided and, per your ruling, 19 demonstrating why the data being provided is 20 not accurate or to provide information that 21 will show that that information is not 22 accurate in terms of its representation, so 23 that's on the evidentiary hearing side. 24 But then certainly on the public 25 participation side, looking for a draft of 26 the metrics to be able to say here is what 27 we're looking at providing to the public in 28

Wildfire Mitigation Plans that will help you

figure out where to go around a
de-energization event and what information
you need, what, you know, the -- all
throughout the Wildfire Mitigation Plan and
making sure that the public says, yep, you
know, that's -- that information will be
helpful for me; so both.

ALJ THOMAS: So let me be clear, public information about what to do during a de-energization event, to the extent it's going to be ordered at all, it will be ordered in the de-energization proceeding. And I suspect there's going to be a lot of coordination needed between locals and the state agencies and the utilities themselves and all sorts of the first responders, et cetera.

So if that's what you're talking about, no, we will not be holding public participation hearings on that issue in this proceeding. But if you think that public participation hearings are necessary in this case, please, by motion, again, written motion, explain -- because the idea that we would have a public participation hearing where we present metrics seems like a nonstarter to me.

It seems a very wonky -- even if

they're expressed in a very accessible way, a very wonky topic to have a public participation hearing on.

I mean I don't meant to diminish the intelligence of the public because people are quite intelligent about issues. But I need more sort of justification for how you think presenting metrics to the public would be of use. So I'm going to invite you to do that.

Okay. I think we've come to the end of our meeting today unless there are additional questions. Let me just -- oh, okay, if anybody in the room wants to be on the service list either as a party or as information only, please give this form to me or the court reporter.

If you want to stay around and talk about the in-language part of the workshop, please talk to Ms. Palmeira who is about three rows from the back there.

So Ms. Hook will coordinate with the parties on this list of metrics. Again, you don't have to agree. I just want a list of everybody's proposed metrics in one place and you can start from what OSA put together. That's due next Friday. Friday is the 6th. I should have brought my calendar.

You may also, but are not required,

if you have concerns or questions that come out of this prehearing because I know I've given you a lot of information about workshops and you're not seeing the detail, feel free to submit just a post prehearing conference compliance filing and then we'll issue a scoping memo hopefully that addresses anything that you raise there, as well as the matters that we talked about here in the next couple of weeks.

And the workshops we'll have on the 17th, 18th, and 19th likewise -- likely along the lines of the schedule I sketched out, but people's schedules may not sync up completely with this. But they are already noticed and we have the auditorium and everything all reserved for the 17th, 18th, and 19th.

And then, as I said, we'll have an opportunity for comment after the workshops which will be kicked off by ruling, and then a decision on the Phase 2 topics sometime between November and the first couple months of the year.

Other questions?

MR. MITCHELL: Yes, just one correction on what I was asking about earlier regarding the deadlines for the planned submission.

There is a statutory deadline in AB 1054

```
2
                    That doesn't necessarily mean
     submitted by.
 3
     they couldn't be submitted earlier, but it's
     July 1st.
 4
           MS. HOOK: It looks like it's
 5
 6
     8387(b)(1).
 7
                        Thank you for that.
           ALJ THOMAS:
               Anything else?
 8
 9
               Yes.
10
                        Yes, your Honor, Judd
           MR. GIBSON:
     Gibson on behalf of the small and
11
12
     multi-jurisdictional utilities.
13
           ALJ THOMAS: All of them?
14
           MR. GIBSON:
                        All of them.
15
           ALJ THOMAS:
                        0h.
16
           MR. GIBSON:
                        I had a clarifying
     question regarding the IOUs update that you
17
     referenced earlier. I believe you said they
18
19
     were due a week before the workshop
20
     September 10th?
21
           ALJ THOMAS:
                        Yes.
22
           MR. GIBSON:
                        I just wanted to confirm
23
     that is a fixed date.
24
           ALJ THOMAS:
                        Yes, yes.
                        Okay, thank you.
25
           MR. GIBSON:
26
           ALJ THOMAS:
                        Sort of a -- just a -- you
27
     share the PowerPoint that you're going to
28
     actually deliver at the workshop so that
```

which is July 1st that the plans need to be

```
people have a chance to look at it and ask
 1
 2
     questions, formulate their questions before
 3
     they actually show up that day.
           MR. GIBSON:
 4
                        Okav.
 5
           ALJ THOMAS:
                        And please be candid about
 6
     problems and deadline issues and date
 7
     slippage.
 8
               Yes.
 9
           MS. COTTLE: And, your Honor, on
10
     that related topic --
11
           THE REPORTER: Excuse me, ma'am, I need
12
     your name, please.
13
                        I apologize. Lisa Cottle,
           MS. COTTLE:
14
     C-o-t-t-l-e, for Horizon West Transmission
     and Trans Bay Cable. We don't need to file
15
16
     that?
17
           ALJ THOMAS:
                        No.
18
           MS. COTTLE:
                        Thank you.
19
           ALJ THOMAS:
                        Mr. Archer.
20
                        Your Honor, just one point
           MR. ARCHER:
21
     of clarification.
                        It seems to me that
22
     Section 8387 is for local, publically-owned
23
     electric utilities and electrical
24
     cooperatives, not IOUs, just something to
25
     take into consideration when you're
26
     considering deadlines in your scoping memo or
27
     in the Phase 2 decision.
28
           ALJ THOMAS: I wrote down several dates
```

on my little outline and there were a couple that I didn't catch. So obviously the scoping memo for the Phase 2 will address dates and deadlines and they're in the statute, so it's not a huge mystery.

Yes?

MS. BEHLES: Deborah Behles with CEJA. I just want to request that if the IOU reports could also include status updates on outreach and consumer protections because those items, even though they're part of the plan, often get left out.

ALJ THOMAS: Let me hear from the utilities. I was really wanting to hear mostly about sort of mitigation measures that have been taken, you know, system hardening and vegetation management and inspections and new situational awareness, installations, things like these kind of hard topics, but delays that have resulted in vegetation management or other inspections because of whatever issues maybe come up, but let's -- is it -- is that could you at least do outreach.

And I think in some of your filings, for example, the filings on in-language, you know, at least one of the utilities said, you know, we've done -- we've already done the

outreach in all the languages that you 1 2 ordered, but maybe a brief summary of the 3 outreach that you've done would be helpful. 4 Is that acceptable? 5 MR. ARCHER: Your Honor, I don't think 6 that's unreasonable at all. It was actually Edison, maybe other utilities as well. 7 our comments we said we sent the following 8 9 letters in the following languages, we 10 translated this and that, we can certainly 11 more formally incorporate that update into 12 the report. 13 ALJ THOMAS: And if you've done 14 newspaper, ethnic newspaper, press, radio, 15 podcasts, whatever, a couple of slides on 16 that would be I think useful. 17 Yes? 18 MR. GIBSON: Judd Gibson again on 19 behalf of the small and multi-jurisdictional 20 utilities. Given that the September 10th 21 update may take the form of a PowerPoint 22 presentation, did you want that to be filed 23 or just served on the service list? 24 ALJ THOMAS: Gosh. Probably just serve 25 it. 26 MR. GIBSON: Okay. 27 Yeah. Because then we'll ALJ THOMAS: 28 have a link after the workshops, probably

	1		
1	before with all the presentations.		
2	MR. GIBSON: Okay. Thank you.		
3	ALJ THOMAS: But always use the most		
4	current service list. Don't do reply-alls.		
5	MR. GIBSON: Okay.		
6	ALJ THOMAS: Any other questions before		
7	we adjourn?		
8	(No response.)		
9	ALJ THOMAS: Thank you. You've all		
10	been really helpful and I look forward to		
11	seeing you at the workshops.		
12	We'll be off the record.		
13	(Off the record.)		
14	(Whereupon, at the hour of 11:02 a.m., this matter having concluded, the		
15	Commission then adjourned.)		
16	* * * *		
17			
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1	BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION	
2	OF THE	
3	STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
4		
5		
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15	EXECUTED THIS SEPTEMBER 03, 2019.	
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